



Arkansas River Advisory Committee

Meeting Highlights from September 28, 2005

Place: 8th Floor, City Hall 455 N. Main, South Conference Room

Next Meeting Scheduled: October 26, 2005

In attendance:

Libby Albers, Department of Environmental Services
Kay Johnson, Department of Environmental Services
Tonya Bronleewe, EARTH
Lucy Burnett, Sedgwick County Commission
Yvonne Cather, Sierra Club
Bob Martz, City Council
Marsha Carr, Riverside Citizen's Association
Tom Kneil, Arkansas River Coalition
Irene Hart, Sedgwick County
Betty Pitts, Riverside Citizen
Sharon Fearey, City Council
Kathy Dittmer, Riverside Citizen's Association
Claire Willenburg

Reminder!

Saturday, October 22, 2005
**Arkansas River Clean Up and
Float Trip**

Meet in the Exploration Place
parking lot at 9 a.m. and finish
below Lincoln Street at noon.

Agenda Item 1: Introductions

Welcome Claire Willenburg.

Agenda Item 2: River Clean-Up

- The clean up is a cooperative effort between the City of Wichita, Sierra Club, and the Wichita Area Paddlers. Public Works will be providing the trash bags, gloves and a packer truck for the event. We will meet at Exploration Place at 9 a.m. The clean up is open to both walkers and boaters.
- Public Works will provide a packer truck, two operators, 200 gloves and 400 trash bags
- Posters have been distributed to Gander Mountain, Exploration Place, etc.
- There will be a slide on Channel 7 announcing the clean-up
- The clean up announcement as also been posted on the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club's webpage as well as Wichita Area Paddlers (www.wichitapaddler.com).
- For the future:
 - Could committees, neighborhood association, civic groups "Adopt the River" similar to the "Adopt a Greenway"?
 - More adequate trash receptacles
 - Trash cans at the new river access points as well as signage on where the next trash can will be
 - Brochures?
 - Channel 7 promotion pieces on the river.

Agenda Item 3: Exploration Place Display

- The Arkansas River Coalition is concerned with the 1400 miles and the entire Arkansas River watershed. Tom Kneil proposed the idea of an interactive exhibit to Explorations Place (EP). Since that time, EP has had some financial difficulties. The exhibit's cost would, at a minimum, be \$100K.
- Comments have been received from the Great Plains nature center
- The exhibit could have a "bump out" of the Wichita area
- Would Cargill be interested?
- Could incorporate the idea into an IMAX style movie for the EP cyberdome. This could then be rented out to other facilities.
- Ann Cummings with EP will be joining the group

Tom Kneil's Project Outline:

Since I suspect that many people looking at the Arkansas River from Exploration Place see only what is in front of them and think little, if at all, about the full extent of the river basin, I would like to propose an interactive "map" of the entire Arkansas River watershed. The "map" would display the river from its headwaters in Colorado to its confluence with the Mississippi River. The watershed would include all the tributaries to the main river.

A large wall map might be a possibility, but I think a better presentation could be made by having a three-dimensional floor model (vertical height exaggerated) so that viewers get a better perspective of the 1450 miles of the river flowing downhill out of the mountains of Colorado and across the plains of Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas to the Mississippi. Displays of this kind are often found at National Parks.

To be interactive the display would require points on the "map" to light up in response to button pushing or to activation through touch screen computer consoles. Features that might be included (not an inclusive list by any means):

- . "You Are Here" and on a computer screen it might show how many miles from
The source and how many miles to the Mississippi River confluence.*
- . Dams and reservoirs on the river and its tributaries with information about them.*
- . Developed waterways such as the Kerr-McGee project in Oklahoma.*
- . Places where the river runs dry (western KS).*
- . Sewage treatment plants whose outflows enter the river.*
- . Sand and gravel extraction or other commercial operations.*
- . Historical sites along the river.*
- . Flow data at various points.*
- . Species of fish found at various points.*
- . Invertebrates found at different points along the river.*
- . Chemical analysis at various points: dissolved oxygen, sedimentation, pH, etc.*

(I don't propose to know how more than one viewer would interact at any one time.)

Supporting materials: a video flyover of selected segments of the river showing whitewater in Colorado, dry riverbed in Kansas, development in Oklahoma and Arkansas would add greatly.

Static or interactive displays might ask (and answer) questions such as:

"What is a watershed?"

"What kinds of pollution enter the river?"

"Where does pollution come from?"

"What recreational possibilities are there on the river?"

"What can individuals do to protect/enhance the river?"

"How does the river change with the seasons?"

"What has been the impact of civilization on the river and its watershed?"

"What is the effect of crop irrigation on the river?"

"Why is the river bed dry in western Kansas? - Has it always been that way?"

"What species of fish are found in the river?"

"Are any species threatened or endangered?"

"What other kinds of fauna are supported by the river?"

And most recently, the proposal of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to develop canoe/kayak access points every five miles from Hutchinson to the Oklahoma border might be included in some fashion.

Agenda Item 4: General Discussion

Web Page: The webpage has been moved to the Environmental Services page:

<http://wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/> A page on the Arkansas River Advisory Committee has also been added to the Arkansas River Water Quality Campaign page.
<http://wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/River/Committee/>

LABC: Tom Swan will report to the group on the information discussed at the LABC meetings. The LABC has received an update on the proposed boating access plan.

Arkansas River Report: there should be a report created documenting the accomplishments that have been made by the various groups since the Arkansas River Symposium

Updated Speaker's Bureau Topics:

Name	Group	Topic
Ron Graber	K-State Research & Extension	Rural and urban BMP's "What's in Your Water"
Monty Munyon	Sedgwick County Conservation District	
Kay Drennen	CoW WATER Center	Rain Gardens: Helping Nature Keep Water Clean
Kay Drennen	CoW WATER Center	Water Conservation...Its a Lifestyle
Kay Drennen	CoW WATER Center	Low Water Landscaping is Smart & Beautiful
Kay Drennen	CoW WATER Center	Your Drinking Water...A to Z
Libby Albers	CoW WATER Center	"Take Me To The River"- Youth Riverbank Exploration Activities
Joe Botinelly	CoW Water & Sewer Dept	Urban Sewers: "Better to Learn About Them Than to Smell Them"
Vaughn Weaver	CoW Water & Sewer Dept	Fish Stories: "Tails" of the Past, Present and Future
Water Quality Staff	CoW Dept of Environmental Services	Private Wells & Septic Systems in the City- Your Water, Your Environment, Your Health
Chris Collins	Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association	Canoeing and Kayaking on the Arkansas River
Tom Kneil	Arkansas River Coalition	
Jim Mason	Great Plains Nature Center	"In the middle of it all: a history of Riverside Park in Wichita"
Kay Johnson	CoW Dept of Environmental Services	
Becky Gagnon	CoW Water & Sewer Department	Wastewater Plant Operations Specializing in POOP (Pursuing Options Other than Pollution)!
Becky Gagnon	CoW Water & Sewer Department	Don't Flush That Down the Drain! - Pretreatment Regulations
Becky Gagnon	CoW Water & Sewer Department	Water Quality Monitoring Activities in the Arkansas River Watershed: or TMDL - Too Many Dang Lawyers

Next River Trash Round Up: May 6, 2006. The Sierra Club plans to do advertising before the event and combine the clean up with a float trip. They will also do a literature drop to the houses and businesses along the river one week prior to the even. Sierra Club will work with the City to get the to neighborhood associations, high school groups, boy scouts, and others.

Adjourn

Next Meeting:

- Discuss Target Grant with Jack Brown
- October Clean-Up Wrap-Up